THE DECLARATION OF THE Lords and Commons

Assembled at *Westminster*;

PRESENTED TO THEIR

HIGHNESSES

THE

Prince and Princess of *ORANGE*,

At *White-Hall* the 13th. of *February*, 168⅞.

WHEREAS the late King *James* the Second, by the assistance of divers Evil Counsellors, Judges, and Ministers Imployed by him, did endeavour to Subvert and Extirpate the Protestant Religion, and the Laws and Liberties of this Kingdom,

By Assuming and Exercising a Power of Dispensing with, and Suspending of Laws, and the Execution of Laws without Consent of *Parliament*.

By Committing and prosecuting divers worthy Prelates for humbly petitioning to be excused from concurring to the said assumed power.

By issuing and causing to be executed a Commission under the Great Seal for Erecting a Court called the Court of Commissioners for Ecclesiastical Causes.

By Levying Money for and to the use of the Crown, by pretence of prerogative, for other time and in other manner than the same was granted by *Parliament*.

By raising and keeping a standing Army within this Kingdom in time of peace, without consent of Parliament, and Quartering Souldiers contrary to Law.

By causing several good Subjects being Protestants, to be disarmed, at the same time when Papists were both Armed and Imployed contrary to Law.

By Violating the freedom of Election of Members to serve in Parliament.

By profecutions in the Court of Kings-Bench for Matters and Cauſes Cognizable only in Parliament, and by divers other Arbitrary and Illegal Courſes.

And whereas of late years Partial, Corrupt, and Unqualified Perſons have been returned and ſerved on Juries in Tryals, and particularly divers Jurors in Tryals for High Treaſon which were not Free-Holders.

And exceſſive Bail hath been required of perſons committed in Criminal Caſes, to elude the benefit of the Laws made for the Liberty of the Subject.

And exceſſive Fines hath been impoſed, and Illegal and Cruel puniſhments inflicted.

And ſeveral Grants and Promiſes made of Fines and Forfeitures before any Conviction or Judgment againſt the Perſons upon whom the ſame were to be Levyed.

All which are utterly and directly contrary to the known Laws and Statutes and Freedom of this Realm. And whereas the ſaid late King *James* the Second having abdicated the Government, and the Throne being thereby vacant.

His Highneſs the Prince of *Orange* (whom it hath pleaſed Almighty God to make the Glorious Inſtrument of delivering this Kingdom from Popery and Arbitary Power) did by the Advice of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and divers Principal perſons of the Commons, cauſe Letters to be written to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal being Proteſtants, and other Letters to the ſeveral Counties, Cities, Univerſities, Boroughs and Cinque Ports, for the chooſing of ſuch perſons to repreſent them as were of right to be ſent to Parliament, to Meet and Sit at *Weſtminſter* upon the 22*d*. day of *January* in this year 1688, in Order to ſuch an Eſtabliſhment, as that their Religion, Laws and Liberties might not again be in danger of being Subverted.

Upon which Letters, Elections have been accordingly made.

And thereupon the ſaid Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons purſuant to their reſpective Letters and Elections, being now Aſſembled in a full and free Repreſentative of this Nation, taking into their moſt ſerious Conſideration the beſt means for attaining the ends aforeſaid,

Do in the firſt place, as their Anceſtors in like Caſes have uſually done, for the vindicating and aſſerting their Ancient Rights and Liberties, declare,

That the pretended Power of ſuſpending of Laws, or the Execution of Laws by Regal Authority, without Conſent of Parliament, is Illegal.

That the pretended Power of diſpenſing with Laws, or the Execution of Laws by Regal Authority, as it has been aſſumed and exerciſed of late, is Illegal.

That the Commiſſion for Erecting the late Court of Commiſſioners, for Eccleſiaſtical Cauſes, and all other Commiſſions and Courts of like nature are Illegal and Pernicious.

That

That Levying of Money for, or to the use of the Crown, by pretence of Prerogative, without Grant of Parliament, or for longer time, or in other manner than the same is, or shall be Granted, is Illegal.

That it is the Right of the Subject to Petition the King; and all Commitments and Prosecutions for such Petitioning, are Illegal.

That the Raising or Keeping a Standing Army within the Kingdom in time of Peace, unless it be with Consent of Parliament, is against Law.

That the Subjects which are Protestants, may have Arms for their Defence suitable to their Condition, and as allowed by Law.

That Election of Members of Parliament ought to be free.

That the Freedome of Speech and Debates, or Proceedings in Parliament, ought not to be Impeached or Questioned in any Court or place out of Parliament.

That Excessive Bail ought not to be required, or excessive Fines Imposed, nor cruel and unusual Punishments inflicted.

That Jurors ought to be duly Impannelled and Returned, and Jurors which pass upon Men in Tryals for High Treason, ought to be Freeholders.

That all Grants and Promises of Fines and Forfeitures of particular Persons before Conviction, are illegal and void.

And that for Redress of all Grievances, and for the amending, strengthning and preserving of the Laws, Parliaments ought to be held frequently.

And they do Claim, Demand, and Insist upon all and singular, the Premises as their undoubted Right and Liberty.

And that no Declarations, Judgments, Doings, or Proceedings, to the prejudice of the People in any of the said Premises ought in any wise to be drawn hereafter into consequence or example.

To which Demand of their Rights, they are particularly incouraged by the Declaration of his Highness the *Prince* of *Orange* as being the only means for obtaining a full Redress and Remedy therein.

Having therefore an intire Confidence that his said Highness the *P.* of *O.* will perfect the Deliverance so far advanced by him, and will still preserve them from the violation of their Rights which they have here asserted, and from all other Attempts upon their Religion, Laws, and Liberties,

The said Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons Assembled at *Westminster*, Do Resolve,

That *William* and *Mary* Prince and Princess of *Orange* be, and be Declared King and Queen of *England*, *France*, and *Ireland*, and the Dominions thereto belonging. To hold the Crown and Royal Dignity of the said Kingdoms and Dominions, to them the said Prince and Princess during their Lives, and the Life of the Survivor of them. And that the sole and

full

full Exercise of the Regal Power, be only in, and Exercised by him the said Prince of *Orange*, in the names of the said Prince and Princess during their joynt Lives. And after their Deceases, the said Crown and Royal Dignity of the said Kingdoms and Dominions, to be to the Heirs of the Body of the said Princess. And for default of such Issue, to the Princess *Anne* of *Denmark*, and the Heirs of her Body. And for default of such Issue, to the Heirs of the Body of the said Prince of *Orange*.

And they do pray the said Prince and Princess of *Orange*, do accept the same accordingly.

And that the Oaths hereafter mentioned, be taken by all Persons of whom the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy might be required by Law, instead of them, and that the said Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy may be abrogated.

I A. B. Do sincerely Promise and Swear, that I will be Faithful and bear true Allegiance to their Majesties King William *and* Queen Mary. *So help me God*, &c.

I A. B. Do Swear, That I do from my Heart Abhor, Detest and Abjure, as Impious, and Heretical, this Damnable Doctrine and Position, That Princes Excommunicated or Deprived by the Pope or any Authority of the See of Rome, *may be Deposed or Murdered by the Subjects or any other whatsoever. And I do Declare, that no Forein Prince, Person, Prelate, State or Potentate, hath or ought to have any Jurisdiction, Power, Superiority, Preheminence, or Authority Ecclesiastical or Spiritual within this Realm. So help me God*, &c.

It is Ordered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons now Assembled at *Westminster*, That this Declaration be Engrossed in Parchment, Enrolled among the Rolls of Parliament, and Recorded in Chancery.

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